



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Opening Statement of Chairman Grassley
Nomination Hearing of John Kevin Veroneau and Robert K. Steel
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2006

The purpose of today's hearing is to consider the nominations of John Veroneau to be Deputy United States Trade Representative in the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and Robert Steel to be Under Secretary for Domestic Finance at the Department of the Treasury.

Before we start, I want to note that Senator Frist had hoped to be here today to introduce Mr. Veroneau to the committee. Unfortunately, Senator Frist is unable to attend today's hearing. Instead, Senator Frist is submitting a statement for the record in support of Mr. Veroneau's nomination.

President Bush has made an outstanding selection in nominating John Veroneau to be Deputy United States Trade Representative. Mr. Veroneau is well-known to the committee, having served previously as both General Counsel and Assistant USTR for Congressional Affairs in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Mr. Veroneau comes to the Committee as a partner in the law firm DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary. He has also served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Chief of Staff to Senator Collins, and Legislative Director to both Senator Frist and former Senator Bill Cohen.

Mr. Veroneau is highly qualified to be Deputy USTR. He brings a wealth of experience and perspective to this new position, and I hope my colleagues will join me in processing his nomination quickly.

Mr. Steel is also very qualified for the position to which he has been nominated. He developed his qualifications to be Under Secretary for Domestic Finance over the course of a long and venerable career at The Goldman Sachs Group. Over the course of his career, Mr. Steel has experienced thirty years worth of dynamic change in how people utilize capital markets, on both a domestic and international level. Mr. Steel also has extensive experience working with the investment community while interacting with various state and federal regulatory bodies. His accumulated experiences make him well-qualified for the position to which he has been nominated.